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## GREAT PLAINS TRIBAL CHAIRMAN'S ASSOCIATION

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**Secretary**  
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NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION  
GREAT PLAINS TRIBAL CHAIRMAN'S ASSOCIATION

## **Great Plains Tribal Group Passes First Intertribal Council Resolution Addressing Climate Change**

Sioux Falls, SD (October 4) – The Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association (GPTCA) – representing 16 tribal councils from South Dakota, North Dakota, and Nebraska – has passed the first intertribal council resolution addressing climate change, and calling for action to alleviate the effects of climate change.

“Climate change is a human rights and environmental justice issue,” said A. Gay Kingman, executive director, Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association. “This unprecedented resolution represents a critical step to increase awareness of climate change, generate action to reduce the effects of climate change, and ensure cultural preservation and environmental justice.”

The GPTCA resolution calls for:

- assistance for Tribes to restore and protect Tribal lands to ensure safe havens for wildlife to survive the effects of climate change.
- responsible solutions to climate change that integrate economic development, natural resource sustainability, and cultural preservation.

Native American Tribal lands account for more total area than all National Park Service lands in the continental United States, and the Great Plains region is poised to become a leader in the wind power market in the coming decade.

The GPTCA emphasizes that Tribes can help alleviate climate change through energy efficiency, energy conservation, carbon sequestration, and renewable energy development (wind, solar, biomass, geothermal).

“Wind energy generated on Tribal lands can supply one-quarter of U.S. energy needs. Tribes have the vast wind resources to build sustainable renewable energy economies on reservations and to demonstrate actions that reduce global warming pollution” said Pat Spears, president, Intertribal Council On Utility Policy. “We believe in the wind. The wind is a gift, the wind has power. We want to use the Four Winds to sustain our communities.”

The GPTCA supports and encourages the formation of a national coalition of Sovereign Indian Tribes and Nations organized to promote and foster Tribal interests in regard to climate change.

With thousands of years of traditional knowledge and connections to the environment, Native Americans can play a significant role in shaping how America addresses and generates active responses to combat global warming.

*The National Wildlife Federation is America's conservation organization inspiring Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future.*

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